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Patent

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office action mailed August 31, 2005 are requested in view of this amendment and the following remarks. Claims 1, 6-9, 18, and 23-26 have been amended, and new claims 33-34 have been added. The amended claims are fully supported by the original specification at least at paragraphs 38 and 39. The new claims are fully supported by the original specification at least at paragraphs 61 and 65. No new matter has been added. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-34 will be pending.

Office Action Paragraph 3

Claims 6-8 and 23-25 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant submits that the above amendments to claims 6-8 and 23-25 overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,479 to Humpleman et al. (“Humpleman”).

Claims 1-4 and 6-8

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite accessing a graphical user interface (GUI) using a remote control unit and accessing a menu in the GUI using the remote control unit. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes this rejection. Humpleman does not teach accessing a GUI using a remote control unit and accessing a menu in the GUI using the remote control unit. In fact, while Humpleman mentions a remote control unit in its disclosure, Humpleman’s system actually employs a “home system” that *discourages* the use of a remote control unit.

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(Humpleman, Col. 1, line 55 – Col. 2, line 8.) Also, one of the main benefits Humpleman attributes to its system is using a device other than a remote control unit. (Humpleman, Col. 2, lines 9 - 15.) Furthermore, none of the other cited references, either alone or when properly combined, teach the subject matter of amended claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend directly from claim 1, and therefore the rejection of these claims is also overcome.

Claims 9, 11, and 16

Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to recite accessing a GUI using a remote control unit. For the same reasons that this rejection of claim 1 is overcome, the rejection of claim 9 is overcome. Claims 11 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 9, and therefore the rejection of these claims is also overcome.

Claims 18-21 and 23-25

Applicant has amended independent claim 18 to recite accessing a menu in a GUI using a remote control unit. For the same reasons that this rejection of claim 1 is overcome, the rejection of claim 18 is overcome. Claims 19-21 and 23-25 depend directly from claim 18, and therefore the rejection of these claims is also overcome.

Claims 26 and 31

Applicant has amended independent claim 26 to recite accessing a GUI using a remote control unit. For the same reasons that this rejection of claim 1 is overcome, the rejection of claim 26 is overcome. Claim 31 depends directly from claim 26, and therefore the rejection of this claim is also overcome.

Claims 12-15

Regarding independent claim 12, the Office action rejection relies on an

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inaccurate description of Fig. 7 of Humpleman by alleging that Fig. 7 teaches defining a layout for a room. Fig. 7 actually shows icons, such as a trademarked logo, associated with various devices that may be arranged on a display page, as described in the specification at, e.g., Col. 13, line 66 – Col. 14, line 11. Fig. 7 in Humpleman does not teach defining a layout for a room in a GUI, as recited in claim 12. Therefore, claim 12 is patentable over Humpleman. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 12, and therefore are also patentable over Humpleman.

Claims 27-30

Regarding independent claim 27, for the same reasons that claim 12 is patentable over Humpleman, claim 27 is also patentable. Claims 28-30 depend directly from claim 27, and therefore claims 28-30 are also patentable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 10, 17, 22, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,012 to Jeon et al. (“Jeon”).

Claims 5, 10, 17, 22 and 32 all depend from the newly amended independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. New claims 33 and 34 also depend from the newly amended independent claims and are therefore patentable for the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. In addition, new claims 33 and 34 recite customizing the GUI with a room set-up mode. Neither Humpleman nor Jeon teach customizing the GUI with a room set-up mode.

Also, regarding claim 32, Applicant notes that the Office action states claim 32

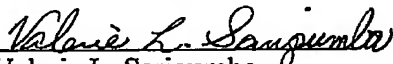
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"is similar in scope to that of claim 16." Applicant believes that this is an error.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims now presented in this application define patentable subject matter over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview could expedite resolution of any remaining issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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